AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 2, please insert the following paragraph:

--Related Application

This application incorporates by reference in its entirety and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 10/041,087, filed December 28, 2001.--

In the "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS" section on pages 3, line 32 of the specification, please insert the following:

--Fig. 10A is a plan view of a variable optical attenuator according to a modification of the present invention; and

Fig. 10B is a side view of the attenuator of Fig. 10A.--

On page 15, after line 30, please add the following:

--In the foregoing embodiment, the actuators 7a and 7b move the first and second lenses 8 and 9 along the respective axes of the first and second optical fibers 3 and 4. Alternatively, the variable optical attenuator of the present invention may include, instead of the actuators 7a and 7b, actuators 40a and 40b, shown in Figs. 10A and 10B, which move the first and second optical fibers 3 and 4 along the respective optical axes of the first and second lenses 8 and 9.

In this case, the first and second optical fibers 3 and 4 are movably received in respective V grooves 28 and 29 cut in the silicon substrate 1, and the actuators 40a and 40b move the corresponding optical fibers independently or in a coordinated manner along the respective optical axes of the first and second lenses 8 and 9. Where the movements of the first and second optical fibers 3 and 4 are coordinated, the optical fibers 3 and 4 are simultaneously moved in opposite directions by the same amount.

Like the aforementioned actuators 7a and 7b, the actuators 40a and 40b are formed on the silicon substrate 1 by using semiconductor microfabrication technologies.

Instead of using the actuators 40a and 40b, linear motors (not shown) may be used to move the first and second optical fibers 3 and 4, respectively.

Also in the case where the first and second optical fibers 3 and 4, instead of the first and second lenses 8 and 9, are moved as in the variable optical attenuator of Figs. 10A and 10B, functions and advantages similar to those of the attenuator of Figs. 6A and 6B can be achieved.--